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## Board of Trustees Encourages Law School to Reopen September 1974

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The Board of Trustees of the University of Dayton at its meeting of May 17, 1973, has accepted the findings of the University's Law School Feasibility Study Committee and encourages and advises the University administration and faculty to reopen its law school in September, 1974. The committee, chaired by Mr. William Hoben, Dean, School of Business Administration, and comprised of local judges, lawyers, and educators, in its report, said: "After an exhaustive study and careful consideration of the financial and academic aspects of a law school at the University of Dayton, the Committee recommends that a full time Law School be reopened in the fall of 1974."

The committee noted five major points in arriving at its decision after two months of intensive study and consultation with national experts in the field. The report said that: 1. the need exists now and in the future on the national and community level; 2. there will be the necessary support from the community; 3. a Law School will enhance the prestige of the University and provide additional attractive educational programs for students; 4. it is economically feasible; and 5. the University already has the physical facilities necessary to begin at this time.

The committee's report revealed that market conditions are as favorable as they probably will ever be for reopening a professional school of this nature. Dayton is the largest city in a metropolitan area in Ohio without a law school. The University of Dayton has a high recognition level nationally and, therefore should be capable of attracting students on a continuing basis. The University already provides other programs in many areas whose graduates are entering the legal profession. In 1972 law school admission test candidates were 119,694 with 35,131 seats available to beginning law students. Finally, the need, in relation to recent Supreme Court decisions for legal counsel, has increased dramatically in the last 10 years.

The study group reported that unsolicited favorable response to news items on the law school have been substantial, reflecting the interest and encouragement of several areas of the local community as well as out-of-town and out-of-state supporters.

The committee reasoned that a nationally-oriented university such as the University of Dayton is strengthened by having a number of high quality professional schools, and that the addition of a law school of high quality is consonant with the purposes and goals of the University.

The committee said it has been clearly documented that a law school can be operated financially at least to a break even point, including an adequate contribution to University overhead, once its initial start-up costs, especially for the basic library, have been supplied.

Mr. Hoben noted that while doing his research work for the committee, he saw a genuine interest among many segments of the local community for the reopening of the University of Dayton Law School. He said that the University has already been offered funds and some library holdings and that many students have expressed an interest in attending the school.

Expert advice from outside the community, he indicated, expressed and documented the need for additional people trained in legal education. "The Federal government, in recent years," Hoben said, "has made it imperative that more and more people be given expert assistance in legal matters."

"Universities today," Hoben concluded, "need to stress academic areas that directly relate to the needs of the community. A law school certainly fits this need. Students from engineering, economics, social sciences and business want to complement their education by pursuing study in law. The need is here and will be here for sometime. I feel the University can fulfill that need."

Because of the recent decline in enrollment, the University has the necessary space in its faculty offices, classrooms, and library to handle a law school for 300-400 students.

Fr. Roesch announced that the faculty and representatives of the local community will be asked immediately to propose a law school with a program most in keeping with the purposes of this University, which would make best use of the resources available, and of a quality which will enhance the overall image of U.D.